

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 OIC-02

L-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /083 W

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R 092203Z APR 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9830

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: GA PROCEDURAL REFORM--VAIL GROUP

REF: USUN 779

1. INFORMAL VAIL GROUP MET 8 APRIL WITH ORTIZ DE ROZAS AGAIN GUIDING THE DISCUSSION. ATTENDING WERE AMB BENNETT FOR US AUSTRIA, FRANCE, ITALY, SWEDEN, NETHERLANDS; USSR, POLAND; ARGENTINA, COSTA RICA; IRAN, THAILAND; AND UNDER SYG MORSE AND GAZARIAN OF SECRETARIAT. MINUTES OF EARLIER MEETINGS, HELD 11 AND 26 MARCH, WERE DISTRIBUTED, AS WELL AS INFORMAL ORTIZ-MORSE PAPER CONTAINING THREE DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR EARLY CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE, DISPENSING WITH UNNECESSARY ELECTION PROCEDURE WHERE NO CONTESTS, AND ROTATION OF MAIN COMMITTEE OFFICERS AMONG REGIONAL GROUPS. COPIES POUCHED VIRGINIA HARTLEY, UNP.

2. ORTIZ CENTERED DISCUSSION ON DRAFT PROPOSAL CONCERNING EARLY CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AND NOTED GENUINE CONSENSUS AT STANLEY FOUNDATION MEETING IN VAIL IN JULY 1974, AND AT FIRST MEETING OF VAIL GROUP IN NYC ON FEBRUARY 21, ON THE NEED TO IMPROVE SUBSTANTIALLY PREPARATIONS FOR REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GA. HE SAID THIS COMMON THEME HAD PROVIDED THE STIMULUS FOR THE MORSE/ORTIZ DRAFT, WHICH SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMALLY OPENING THE NEW GA IN DECEMBER ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF

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THE PREVIOUS SESSION; THE NEW GA WOULD ELECT THE PRESIDENT,

17 V-P'S AND 7 MAIN COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, THUS CONSTITUTING THE GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FOLLOWING FALL AND ENABLING IT TO MEET IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD TO PREPARE CAREFUL AND USEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PLENARY. HAVING ELECTED THE GENERAL COMMITTEE, THE GA WOULD THEN ADJOURN UNTIL THE 3RD TUESDAY IN SEPTEMBER, AS NOW. (AN APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT OF RULE 1 OF THE GA RULES OF PROCEDURE WOULD BE NEEDED.) ORTIZ ALSO STRESSED AS A SECOND, IF DISTINCTLY SUBSIDIARY THEME, THE DESIRABILITY OF ENCOURAGING SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WELL IN ADVANCE OF COMMENCEMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF GA IN ORDER TO AFFORD GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR SERIOUS GOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION, PARTICULARLY OF NEW ISSUES.

3. DISCUSSIONS WERE EXPLORATORY IN CHARACTER AND POSITIVE IN TONE. AMB BENNETT DREW ATTENTION TO CERTAIN ARTIFICIALITY IN CONVENING NEW GA AT END, AND IN ATMOSPHERE, OF CLOSING OF OLD SESSION. OVINNIKOV (USSR) SEEMED TO HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH INTER-SESSIONAL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS BUT EMPHASIZED DEMERITS OF ANY MAIN COMMITTEE SITTINGS.

(APPARENTLY SOME AT INITIAL VAIL GROUP DISCUSSIONS HAD SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF MAIN COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL OR PREPARATORY WORK IN JANUARY-AUGUST PERIOD.) OVINNIKOV WONDERED WHETHER EARLY TABLING OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WAS DESIRABLE; ITS PRACTICAL EFFECT MIGHT BE TO EXTEND DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ORTIZ COUNTERED THAT MID-SUMMER TABLING OF ENMOD TREATY PROPOSAL BY USSR HAD PROMPTED SERIOUS GOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION WHICH A MID-AUTUMN TABLING WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED.

4. RETURNING TO EARLY ELECTION OF GENERAL COMMITTEE, ITALY AND AUSTRIA SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO PROCEED MORE EXPERIMENTALLY AND AVOID PROPOSING AT THE OUTSET CHANGES IN GA RULES OF PROCEDURE, WHICH OFTEN AROUSES SUSPICION. FOR EXAMPLE 30TH GA COULD ADOPT A BRIEF RESOLUTION REQUESTING ITS GENERAL COMMITTEE TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ORGANIZATION OF 31ST SESSION'S WORK; THESE WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY 31ST GENERAL COMMITTEE ON ITS ELECTION IN SEPTEMBER 1976. MIGLIUOLO POINTED TO FACT THAT 23RD GA HAD SET A PRECEDENT IN THIS REGARD BY DECIDING TO CONTINUE LIFE OF ITS GENERAL COMMITTEE BEYOND THE 23RD SESSION AND ASKING IT TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING UN 25TH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANNIVERSARY TO 24TH GA. IF AN AD HOC PROCEDURE OF THIS CHARACTER WERE SUCCESSFUL, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE OBJECTION TO APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT OF GA RULES. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT IN THE LONGER RUN, IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO REMOVE THE APPARENT LIMITATION IN RULE 40 PREVENTING GENERAL COMMITTEE FROM DISCUSSING SUBSTANCE IF IT WERE DESIRED TO GIVE THE GENERAL COMMITTEE A MORE SUBSTANTIAL ROLE IN DIRECTING GA WORK.

5. ORTIZ SUGGESTED MEETINGS CONTINUE, AS EARLIER AGREED, EVERY TWO WEEKS. HE SUGGESTED 22 APRIL MEETING TRY TO REACH AT LEAST A TENTATIVE CONCLUSION ON DESIRABILITY OF EARLY ELECTION OF GENERAL COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO ALLOW IT TO DEAL REASONABLY WITH PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF FOLLOWING GA. HE SAID CONTEXT FOR DISCUSSION SHOULD BE THAT MAIN AIM IS BETTER ORGANIZATION OF GA WORK, NOT ADDITION TO THAT WORK OR TO LENGTH OF GA, AS WELL AS SUBSIDIARY PURPOSE OF MAKING ECONOMIES WHERE POSSIBLE.

6. COMMENT: ORTIZ DE ROZAS DISCUSSIONS ARE OPEN TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED VAIL SEMINAR SPONSORED BY STANLEY FOUNDATION. AMONG REASONS WHY THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN POSITIVE AND NON-POLEMICAL ARE PRIVACY OF THE MEETINGS AND FACT THAT PARTICIPANTS, EVEN AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, PARTICIPATE AS INDIVIDUALS AND NOT AS INSTRUCTED REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS. ORTIZ HAS ON OCCASION EASED DISCUSSION BY REITERATING THESE POINTS.  
BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, REORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975USUNN01143  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750124-0511  
**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750465/aaaachrj.tel  
**Line Count:** 133  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 USUN 779  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GA PROCEDURAL REFORM--VAIL GROUP  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006